

## ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to flea head, nerve cord, hindgut and Malpighian tubule proteins; to flea head, nerve cord, hindgut and Malpighian tubule nucleic acid molecules, including those that encode such flea head, nerve cord, hindgut and Malpighian tubule proteins; to antibodies raised against such flea head, nerve cord, hindgut and Malpighian tubule proteins; and to compounds that inhibit flea head, nerve cord, hindgut and Malpighian tubule protein activity. The present invention also includes methods to obtain such proteins, nucleic acid molecules, antibodies, and inhibitory compounds. Also included in the present invention are therapeutic compositions comprising proteins, nucleic acid molecules, antibodies, or protective compounds derived from proteins of the present invention as well as the use of such therapeutic compositions to protect animals from flea infestation. Also included in the present invention is the use of flea head, nerve cord, hindgut and Malpighian tubule proteins to derive inhibitory compounds.